



Visiting pianist Elise Sobol delivered a magical musical morning at the Manchebo monthly concert.

The French Steak House at the Manchebo Beach Resort was filled to overflowing for the “Donny Lacle” concert this past Sunday morning. Music lovers enjoyed the rare pleasure of listening to visiting pianist Elise Sobol of New York, finishing a two-week stay in Aruba. During her visit, Ms. Sobol, a noted educator and author working with autistic and mentally challenged children not only performed but conducted workshops for local educators about reaching children with special needs, particularly with music. Elise expressed great satisfaction with the workshops; all three were filled to capacity with enthusiastic students.

Sunday’s concert audience was also very receptive to the lively mix of classical music, a small tribute to George Gershwin, and some beloved Aruban classics by Padu Lampe and Rufo Wever that made up the morning program. Performing with Elise were local musician Ronny Provance on the drums and his wife, soprano Catherine Provance, providing vocals.

Aside from visiting performer Elise Sobol, there was a poetry reading by seventeen-year-old Rosabelle Illes from her recently published work “Beyond Insanity.” Writing in English, her poetry revealed remarkable depth and intuition in such a young Arubian. Her moving insights into the pain and frustrations of growing up were sharp observances revealing a surprising clarity of vision. She also recited some recent works in Papiamentu, which particularly touched the native audience.

The morning rounded out with guitar and vocals by Piet de Cuba, and the musical group of Hennie Lejuez and Roy Sneek recording live with fifteen guitarists and singers.

Joyce Perreira, hostess and MC for the concert presented Elise Sobol with a certificate of appreciation for the time she has spent here in Aruba, entertaining the islanders with her beautiful music and working with the teachers in training of the IPA musical department. Ms. Sobol gave of her time selflessly, providing enlightenment and delight for so many during her brief visit. After the concert, Ms. Sobol expressed her mutual delight with the friends she has made her, and the people she has met, and confirmed that she would return to Aruba, very soon.